

Since I resigned from the Department of Corrections on Friday, I have received information from leadership within the administration that Representative John Lesch is a complainant. The complaint alleges that I conducted private lobbying activities on state time, after my appointment to the DOC. Until this weekend I was unaware of the nature or origin of the complaint. As I have been quoted in the media since my resignation, that complaint played no role in my decision to leave.

Now that I have learned that the complaint against me was lodged by Rep. Lesch, I feel the need to respond publicly. After accepting my appointment to the DOC, I transferred all of my lobbying clients to other registered lobbyists and consciously avoided conduct that would give even an appearance of impropriety in this context.

My decision to resign from the Department of Corrections is unrelated to the complaint. I would like to reiterate that my decision to resign was based on my belief that I am best able to influence racial and gender equity and criminal justice policy from a different platform.

**Rep. Lesch's complaint appears to be part of a pattern of behavior in which he launches underhanded attacks on his perceived foes, particularly when they are women.**

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For context, I was the chair for Representative Lesch's brief, ill-fated campaign for Attorney General, which he launched in early 2017. When he recruited me and the rest of his campaign staff, Representative Lesch made no mention that he was subject to an ongoing four-year investigation by the Campaign Finance Board. Our campaign team only learned of this when, months into the campaign, the media reported that Rep. Lesch had been found guilty of misappropriating campaign funds and was receiving the largest fine in Minnesota's history. I was placed in the difficult position of initiating the conversation that led him to drop out of the race. Over time, Rep. Lesch irrationally came to blame me and others for his failed campaign and acted out in various ways. As a result, I determined I could no longer support his bid for re-election to his House seat and have since supported his challengers. In response, he has missed no opportunity to attack my reputation and integrity.

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